Part VI:

Building the Learning Society

**We Have Tried “More” and “Better”: It is Time for “Different”**

**Why do education systems need to change?**

Economy and society have changed. Global economy and global society need flexible allrounders rather than one-size-fits-all-workers. Therefore education systems should be fit to those needs.

**How have education systems changed so far?**

* **More:** Some countries are currently in the phase of more – of simply providing more schools, more classes, and more teachers.
* **Better:** Many countries have tried to make their education systems better by adding standards

**But…**

Cisco Systems believe that learning should be organized completely **differently,** according to nine principles. They call this new way of learning the ***Learning Society.***

**The Nine Principles of the Learning Society**

1. Learning is lifelong.
2. Learners are motivated and ready to take challenges.
3. Learning is an activity of the learner, not the institution (= Learner-centered-approach)
4. Learning is for everyone.
5. People learn differently, so the lessons should be fit to those needs.
6. Learning providers, from the public, private, and NGO sectors play an important role.
7. Develops new relationships and new networks between learners, providers (new and old), funders, and innovators.
8. There is a universal infrastructure for learning – still physical but increasingly virtual (= online).
9. Supports systems of continuous innovation and feedback to develop knowledge of what works in which circumstances.

**New Roles for Existing Players**

Governments: The Regulator of the Learning Society

Cisco Systems sees governments as supervisors or education rather than providers of education. The critical shift for government is one of mindset: from running education to enabling learning and recognizing that learning goes on beyond school walls and continues well after the end of compulsory schooling.

Governments remain with some very important functions though:

* Stating educational goals and controlling the fulfillment of these goals.
* Providing the legal and executive basis for old and new players of education.
* Making sure that learning is for everyone.

Existing School Systems: Transform to Education 3.0

**How should educational systems (= schools) change?**

* Teachers can focus on teaching entirely (no administrative functions.
* Teachers use the opportunities of web 2.0.
* Learners, teachers and the school have a lifelong relationship.

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Higher Education: Expand Reach to Play a Full Role in the Learning Society

Higher education institutes should extend beyond the campus by working with companies more closely and by opening their facilities to lifelong learners.

**New Roles for New Players**

**Social innovators** should work through, around, and beyond the current educational system, pioneering more new models of formal and informal learning. This should be done with the financial support of governments, private and social investors.

**The private sector** has a new role at the heart of the *Learning Society.* Companies should try to support their employees in their lifelong learning, for example by job-specific-training.

**Social investors** give money to social innovators.

**Informal learning providers and cultural institutions** must find a way to give their learners the possibility to get an account of what they’ve learnt there. (standardized learning)

**Learners** are at the center of the Learning Society. It will be driven by their demand, and shaped by their priorities.

**Funding the Learning Society**

Traditionally, the state has for the most part paid for education (\*) on behalf of the three main beneficiaries of learning: individual, business, and wider society.

(\*: Developed countries spend around 6-8% of their GDP for education)

This needs to change. The new costs must be spread across them:

* Basic education should mostly remain funded (not run!) by the state.
* Where training is technical and job-specific, employers should pay.
* Where training is technical but more related to a profession, learners should pay a greater proportion.